

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 07332 171237Z
ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4109

S E C R E T TEHRAN 7332

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY HABIB AND DEPUTY SECDEF DUNCAN

DEPT PASS SECDEF

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IR, US
SUBJ: AWACS

1. I AM CONCERNED BY THE SLOW PACE OF EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON TO FULFILL THE COMMITMENTS WE HAVE UNDERTAKEN WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN RESPECTING ACTIONS BY THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN PURSUIT OF SALE OF AWACS TO IRAN. ON AUGUST 1 I REACHED A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SHAH, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY (STATE 177843 AND STATE 179484), THAT IF IRAN STILL WISHED TO PURCHASE AWACS, THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY REMAINED COMMITTED TO THE DECISION TO PROVIDE IRAN WITH AWACS AND THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE THEIR STRENUOUS EFFORT TO SEE THAT THE PORPOSED SALE IS NOT REJECTED BY THE CONGRESS WHEN IT IS RESUBMITTED ON SEPTEMBER 7.

2. THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 28 REPLY TO SENATOR HUMPHREY AND THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER TO SPEAKER O'NEILL (STATE 177847) STATE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE THE SIX ASSURANCES SOUGHT IN THE HUMPHREY JULY 27

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LETTER. IN MY DISCUSSION OF THESE SIX POINTS WITH THE SHAH, HE AGREED TO THE IDEA THAT VON MARBOD AND TOUFANIAN SHOULD GET TOGETHER TO SEE WHETHER AGREEMENT MIGHT BE REACHED ON ASSURANCES ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOI AND RESPONSIVE TO THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO HUMPHREY. THIS ARRANGEMENT RESULTED FROM A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WHICH I HAD WITH VON MARBOD.

3. FROM THIS DISTANCE IT APPEARS PROGRESS IS ALTOGETHER TOO SLOW TO MEET OUR SEPTEMBER 7 DEADLINE. UNTIL WE HAVE SORTED SEVERAL THINGS OUT WITH THE IRANIANS WE WILL NOT KNOW WHETHER WE ARE STILL IN BUSINESS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE EFFECTIVE LIAISON WORK BY ADMINISTRATION LEADERS WITH KEY CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES. I URGE, THEREFORE, THAT WE FOCUS OUR ATTENTION ON ADDRESSING THE SIX POINTS RAISED IN THE HUMPHREY LETTER AND THAT WE TAKE THIS MATTER UP FORTHWITH WITH THE IRANIANS. I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR VON MARBOD TO ARRIVE TEHRAN NO LATER THAN AUGUST 21 TO BEGIN THIS EFFORT WITH TOUFANIAN.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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